

Roanoke, Town of
(Bee's Shoe Shop and People's Telephone Exchange)
Roanoke
Lewis County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-209-J

HABS
WVA
21-ROAN
11-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ROANOKE, TOWN OF
(Bee's Shoe Shop and People's Telephone Exchange)

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11-

Location: Roanoke, West Virginia.

Elevation: ca. 1060'.

UTM References as given on the National Register of Historic Places Nomination form:

Zone: 17

Easting: 543970

Northing: 4309060

U.S.G.S. Map: Roanoke, West Virginia, 7.5' (1966 edition, photo revised 1979).

Present Owner: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Present Occupant: none.

Present Use: none.

Construction Date: early 20th century.

Informants: Gordon and Nell Hall; Mr. and Mrs. Oliver "Peck" Posey; Mary Alice Snyder.

Historical Information: As in the case of all of the Roanoke properties included in the National Register of Historic Places District, this tract was part of a larger parcel of land until Joseph Hall sold this portion of the larger parcel to John and Morris Taylor.

This sale is conjectural, however, as no deed for the transaction has been located. Hall's ownership of the property is based on tax information.

The construction date for the original portion of the present rectangular structure on the site cannot be established. However, James Jeffries was taxed for improvements on the property as early as 1877, one year after he purchased it from the Taylors.

Whether these taxes were being assessed on what are now the front two rooms (Rooms 1, 6) of the structure on Tract 1538 is conjectural. This section of the building is constructed with wire nails, however, and it is likely that it post-dates ca. 1900.

Unlike most buildings in the Roanoke National Register of Historic Places District, this structure appears to have been a rental property for much of its existence. According to informants, it originally consisted of two rooms (Rooms 1, 6), which based upon an examination of door and window openings in the building's frame do not appear to have been interconnected. Access to each room was apparently only from east (i.e., front) and west (i.e., rear) doors which essentially were opposite each other.

The earliest remembrance of the structure was that "the right side" (i.e., Room 1) was the office of the People's Telephone Company (James Whelan 1981, pers. comm.). The room contained only a chair and a switchboard, and it was the place where for years the residents of Roanoke had to go to make all of their telephone calls. As such, this room became one of the more important locations in the village. Ruby

TABLE
Ownership of Tract 1538

Grantor	Grantee	Date of Transaction	Cost	Acreage	Reference	Comments
Ida Mae Steel	Robert Posey & Anna Posey	9 April 1936	\$1.00	3,782 sq. feet	Lewis County Deed Book 242: 240	
Dana G. Bennett	Ida Mae (Montgomery) Steel	2 May 1951	\$1.00	3,782 sq. feet	Lewis County Deed Book 213: 423	
Guy D. Mealy & Grace Mealy	Danna G. Bennett	25 July 1950	\$600.00	3,782 sq. feet	Lewis County Deed Book 209: 283	
Charles Warner & Etta Warner	Guy D. Mealy & Grace Mealy	5 Dec. 1941	\$300.00	3,782 sq. feet	Lewis County Deed Book 162: 1	
Mary A. Mullooly (widow)	Charles Warner & Etta Warner	23 May 1940	\$1,700.00	Lot 6 & part of 7	Lewis County Deed Book 155: 457	
Owen Mullooly	Thomas F. Mullooly	29 May 1902		Lots 5, 6, 7	Lewis County Deed Book 47: 515	Thomas Mullooly was son of Owen Mullooly
Charles A. Horner	Owen Mullooly	19 July 1893	\$2,500.00	Lots 5, 6, 7	Lewis County Deed Book 27: 509	
Lias G. Smith	C. A. Horner	29 April 1882	\$425.00	Lots 6, 7 (80 poles)	Lewis County Deed Book 13: 13	
James P. Jeffries & Annetta G. Jeffries (wife)	Lias G. Smith	26 Jan. 1880	\$200.00	Lots 6, 7 (80 poles)	Lewis County Deed Book 11: 576	
Morris Taylor & Martha Taylor (wife) John W. Taylor & Marna Taylor (wife)	James P. Jeffries	8 June 1876	\$170.00	Lots 6, 7 (80 poles)	Lewis County Deed Book 8: 371	

TABLE
Tax Record for Tract 1538

Name	Year	Land	Value per Acre	Value of Land	Value of Improvement	Total Value	Comments
John Sprigg	1817	310 acres Sand Fork/ West Fork	\$.50			\$155.00	
	*1818 1819	310 acres Sand Fork/ West Fork	\$.50		\$150.00	\$400.00	
	1820-1823	310 acres Sand Fork/ West Fork	\$3.50		\$131.25	\$1,085.00	
	1824-1826	310 acres Sand Fork/ West Fork	\$3.50			\$1,085.00	
Michael G. Bush	1827	20 acres West Fork	\$3.50			\$70.00	From John Sprigg
	1828-1833	91 acres West Fork	\$5.70		\$200.20	\$518.70	
	1834	91 acres West Fork	\$5.70			\$518.70	
	*1835 1836-1839 1840-1847	91 acres West Fork 91 acres West Fork	\$5.70 \$10.00			\$518.70 \$910.00	
Joseph Hall	1848	86 acres West Fork	\$10.00			\$860.00	From Michael G. Bush
	1849	86 acres West Fork	\$10.00			\$860.00	
	*1850 1851	86 acres West Fork	\$10.00			\$860.00	
	*1852-1853 1854-1855	85 acres West Fork 85 acres West Fork	\$10.00 \$11.00		\$350.00	\$850.00 \$850.00	
	1856	85 acres West Fork	\$11.00		\$600.00	\$1,105.00	
	1857-1858 *1859	85 acres West Fork	\$13.00			\$1,105.00	
	1860	85 acres West Fork	\$13.00		\$600.00	\$1,105.00	
	*1861 1862-1867	85 acres West Fork	\$13.00		\$600.00	\$1,105.00	
	*1868-1869 1870-1872	85 acres West Fork	\$13.00		\$600.00	\$1,105.00	
	1873-1874	85 acres West Fork	\$13.00		\$600.00	\$1,105.00	
	1875						No listing for Godfrey and Mitchell

Table (cont.)

Name	Year	Land	Value per Acre	Value of Land	Value of Improvement	Total Value	Comments
Morris Taylor	1876-1877	Lot 6, Roanoke				\$299.00	
James Jeffries	1878-1879	Lots 6, 7, Roanoke			\$100.00	\$200.00	
Lias G. Smith	1880 1881-1882	Lots 6, 7 (80 p) Lots 6, 7 (80 p)			\$100.00 \$100.00	\$200.00 \$100.00	80p may refer to 80 poles
Charles A. Horner	1883-1891 1892 1893	Lots 6, 7 (80 p) Lots 6, 7 (80 p) Lots 6, 7 (80 p)			\$100.00 \$150.00 \$165.00	\$207.00 \$220.00 \$220.00	
Owen Mullooly	1894-1898 1899-1901	Lots 6, 7 (80 p) Lots 6, 7 (80 p)			\$165.00	\$220.00 \$100.00	
Showas Mullooly	1902	Lots 5, 6, 7			\$300.00	\$650.00	
Thomas Mullooly	1903-1905 1906-1908 1909	Lots 5, 6, 7 Lots 5, 6, 7 Lots 5, 7 and part of 6 (1/2 acre)		\$300.00 \$300.00	\$300.00 \$500.00 \$500.00	\$450.00 \$800.00 \$800.00	
	1910	Lot 5, 1/2 of lots 6, 7		\$300.00	\$500.00	\$800.00	
	1911	Lot 5, 1/2 of lots 6, 7		\$800.00		\$800.00	
	1912	Lot 5, 1/2 of lots 6, 7		\$500.00	\$800.00	\$1,300.00	
	1913 1914 1915-1920	1/2 of Lots 6, 7 1/2 of Lots 6, 7 Lots 6, 7		\$500.00 \$530.00 \$530.00	\$800.00 \$470.00 \$470.00	\$1,300.00 \$1,000.00 \$1,000.00	
Mary A. Mullooly	1921 1922-1925 1926-1927 1928-1930 1931 1932-1939 *1940	Lots 6, 7 Lot 5, part of 6, 7 Lots 5, 6, part of 7 Lots 5, 6, part of 7 Lot 6, part of 7 Lot 6, part of 7		\$300.00 \$300.00 \$300.00 \$300.00 \$150.00 \$120.00	\$600.00 \$600.00 \$600.00 \$500.00	\$900.00 \$900.00 \$900.00 \$800.00 \$150.00 \$120.00	

Table (cont.)

Name	Year	Land	Value per Acre	Value of Land	Value of Improvement	Total Value	Comments
Charles Warner & Etta Warner	1941-1943	Lot 6, part of 7		\$100.00	\$200.00	\$300.00	
Guy Mealy	1944-1950	3872 square feet		\$10.00	\$50.00	\$60.00	
Dana Rennett	1951	3872 square feet		\$10.00	\$50.00	\$60.00	
Ida Montgomery	1952-1956	3872 square feet		\$10.00	\$50.00	\$60.00	
Robert Posey & Anna Posey	1957-1967 1968-1979 1980	3872 square feet 3872 square feet 3872 square feet		\$50.00 \$200.00 \$300.00	\$300.00 \$850.00 \$1,450.00	\$350.00 \$1,050.00 \$1,750.00	

*Records Missing.

Simons, who was one of Floda Nay's daughters, was remembered as the switchboard operator (Mary Alice Snyder 1981, pers. comm.).

The "left room" (Room 6) was occupied by Zeke Bee's shoe repair shop. Bee was remembered for frequently spitting tobacco juice into a spittoon that he kept in the shop and for the many bits of leather that were strewn about the floor and amidst his equipment. Bee was a Seventh Day Baptist and lived outside Roanoke in the Seventh Day community. He walked to his shop each day, and people of the area referred to the property around his residence as "Zekeville" in honor of the popular shoe repairman (Gordon and Nell Hall 1981, pers. comm.).

Other occupants of the building included Jim Shackelford who operated a barber shop there before he moved it to his nearby home (Gordon and Nell Hall 1981, pers. comm.). Later, Mary Conrad's brother converted the structure into a residence which he himself occupied. Thereafter, the structure was used exclusively as a dwelling (Gordon and Nell Hall 1981, pers. comm.). The most recent alterations to the structure, the addition of Rooms 2-5 and 7, were undertaken by Robert and Anna Posey.

As the structure is generally known as the Robert Posey home to most of those interviewed in the preparation of this report, it is referred to in this way throughout the remainder of its architectural description.

Architectural Information:

General Description: The Posey dwelling is a one story, three bay, gable-roofed frame (clapboard) bungalow style structure (Kniffen 1936; Newton 1971); a porch extends across the eastern elevation. The structure is covered with gray-green insulbrick siding.

Overall Dimensions: 24'4" x 32'6".

Foundation: The structure rests on piers that consist of four tile blocks; these are positioned in such a way that they form an 8" x 8" x 11" post; each tile measures 8" in width x 4" deep x 11" in height. Along the north and south elevations there are five evenly-spaced piers, while along the east and west elevations there are three such piers.

Walls: The walls in the front two rooms consist of 3 1/2" clapboards attached with wire nails and covered with variegated gray-green insulbrick; walls in the remainder of the dwelling are covered with variegated gray-green insulbrick.

Framing: This is composed of light timber framing: Rooms 1 and 2 have 2" x 4" and 3" x 3" studs on 1'8" centers. The remainder of the rooms have more recent 2" x 4" studs on 1'4" centers.

Porch: A 6' wide x 19'10 1/2" bay porch covered with a shed roof is centered in the eastern elevation of the structure; the porch deck is raised 2'2" above the ground and is covered with 5"-8 3/4" plain boards, then by 1/4" plywood painted salmon. The roof is supported by four evenly-spaced white-painted 2" x 4" wood columns and is covered with raised seam sheet metal roofing. The deck is supported on red tile piers measuring 8" wide x 4" deep and 11" in height and is surrounded by skirting of a molded concrete block-impressioned sheet metal. The porch is reached by ascending two concrete steps (36" wide x 11" tread x 7 1/2" high) plus a riser of 8 3/4"; a 3' wide concrete sidewalk leads to the steps in which the name "Lowther" has been impressed with glass marbles.

A second porch is centered opposite the Room 2 exterior door on the north side of the structure;

This porch measures 4'6" wide x 4'10 1/2" long; the deck is

raised 2 1/4" above the ground and consists of unpainted 4 3/4"-1' 1/4" plain boards. It is supported on two piers composed of two horizontally laid 8" concrete blocks; each pier is surmounted by a brick which also is laid horizontally. The deck is reached by ascending two "make-shift" steps composed of concrete blocks and broken pieces of concrete.

Chimneys: A stove pipe is situated at the roof peak to the front (i.e., east) of the center of the structure's long axis.

Roof: The roof is a low-pitched gable variety covered with raised seam sheet metal roofing.

Interior Description: Room 1 (Room numbers are keyed to floor plan on page 18)

Function: previously a telephone exchange for the village of Roanoke.

Dimensions: 11'7" x 13'2"; 8'3 1/2" ceiling.

Wallcovering: 7 1/4"-11 1/2" horizontal boards originally covered with newspaper; one date of 1935 was noted. Later, an unidentified pattern wallpaper was applied.

Floorcovering: particle board over linoleum; linoleum laid on felt paper; painted 2 1/2" tongue and groove boards under felt paper.

Ceiling: 2' x 4' fiber board ceiling tile over plain boards.

Baseboard: none.

Heating: at one time, a modern furnace appears to have existed in the southwest corner of the room to judge from marks remaining on the floor.

Fireplace: none.

Plumbing: none.

Lighting and Electricity: central ceiling fixture; switch on east wall adjacent to door; duplex outlet on each wall.

Other: window in room replaced an earlier double hung window in the east wall.

Interior Description: Room 2

Function: kitchen.

Dimensions: 8'4" x 17'7"; 8'5" ceiling.

Wallcovering: drywall.

Floorcovering: linoleum over particle board.

Ceiling: drywall.

Baseboard: 3 1/2"; missing, measurement taken from remaining impression.

Heating: none.

Fireplace: none.

Plumbing: sink connection at south end of west wall.

Lighting and Electricity: two ceiling fixtures; switches on north and east walls adjacent to the doors.

Other: east wall originally was an exterior wall as 3 1/4" clapboards exist beneath the drywall.

Interior Description: Room 3

Function: bedroom.

Dimensions: 7'8" x 14'3"; 8'5" ceiling.

Wallcovering: drywall.

Floorcovering: particle board covered with linoleum.

Ceiling: drywall.

Baseboard: 3 1/2" ranch molding; varnished.

Heating: opening in the south wall for a heat register.

TABLE

Tract 1538: Door Details

Position	Opening	Style	Hinge	Latch/Lock	Interior Surround Trim	Exterior Surround Trim	Threshold
Room 1 to Exterior	2'6 1/4" x 6'5"	modern hollow core	3 1/2" butt (modern)	—	2 1/4" ranch molding	2"	no
	(originally a window, 32 1/4" x 62")						
Room 1 to Room 2	2'8 1/4" x 6'6"	door missing	—	—	missing	missing	no
Room 1 to Room 6	2'9" x 6'8"	passageway	—	—	—	—	yes
Room 2 to Exterior	2'8 1/4" x 6'8 1/4"	4 panel with top panel glass (modern)	3 1/2" butt (modern)	mortise lock (modern)	2 1/4" ranch molding	2"	yes
Room 3 to Room 7	2'6 1/2" x 6'9"	passageway	—	—	missing	missing	no
Room 3 to Closet	2'2 1/2" x 6'10"	passageway	—	—	missing	missing	no
Room 4 to Room 7	2' 1/4" x 6'8 1/8"	2 panel (modern)	3 1/2" butt	—	2 1/4" ranch molding	2 1/4" ranch molding	no
Room 4 to Closet	2'2" x 6'10"	passageway	—	—	missing	missing	no
Room 5 to Room 7	2' 1/4" x 6'8 1/2"	door missing	3 1/2" butt	—	missing	missing	no

Table (cont.)

Position	Opening	Style	Hinge	Latch/Lock	Interior Surround Trim	Exterior Surround Trim	Threshold
Room 6 to Room 7	3'3" x 6'6 1/2"	passageway (originally a window, 39" x 62")	—	—	missing	missing	no
Room 6 to Closet	2'2" x 6'7"	passageway	—	—	missing	missing	no

Tract 1538: Window Details

Position	Style	Opening	Size of Pane	Number of Panes	Type of Sill	Interior Surround Trim	Exterior Surround Trim
EAST WALL Left to right	horizontal sliding	21 1/2"x48 1/2" (modern)	21" x 25"	1 by 1	slip	--	2"
	horizontal sliding	41" x 51" (modern)	25" x 36"	1 by 1	slip	--	2"
	Ventilation louver at roof peak						
SOUTH WALL Left to right	double hung	24 1/4"x37 1/2"	16" x 20"	1/1	slip	missing	2"
	horizontal sliding	21 1/2"x48 1/2" (modern)	21" x 25"	1 by 1	slip	--	2"
	Ventilation louver at roof peak						
WEST WALL Left to right	horizontal sliding	21 1/2"x48 1/2" (modern)	21" x 25"	1 by 1	slip	2 1/4" ranch molding	2"
	horizontal sliding	21 1/2"x48 1/2" (modern)	21" x 25"	1 by 1	slip	missing	2"
	horizontal sliding	21 1/2"x48 1/2" (modern)	21" x 25"	1 by 1	slip	2 1/4" ranch molding	2"

Fireplace: none.

Plumbing: none.

Lighting and Electricity: central ceiling fixture; switch on east closet wall; duplex outlets on north and east walls.

Other: a 2'2 1/2" deep and 4'6 1/2" wide closet is located at the north end of the east wall.

Interior Description: Room 4

Function: bedroom.

Dimensions: 6'8" x 10'3"; 8'5" ceiling.

Wallcovering: drywall.

Floorcovering: particle board covered with linoleum.

Ceiling: drywall.

Baseboard: 3 1/2" ranch molding; varnished.

Heating: opening in the north wall for a heat register.

Fireplace: none.

Plumbing: none.

Lighting and Electricity: ceiling fixture off center (to east); switch on east wall adjacent to door.

Other: a 2'2 1/2" deep x 2'3 1/2" wide closet is located at the south end of room along the east wall.

Interior Description: Room 5

Function: bathroom.

Dimensions: 4' x 9'11"; 8'5" ceiling.

Wallcovering: drywall.

Floorcovering: particle board covered with linoleum.

Ceiling: drywall.

Baseboard: 2 1/2" ranch molding; varnished.

Heating: none.

Fireplace: none.

Plumbing: toilet connection in southwest corner; sink connection along north wall adjacent to toilet; shower and bathtub connection in northeast corner.

Lighting and Electricity: off center ceiling fixture; switch on north wall adjacent to door.

Other: medicine cabinet opening above sink; enclosed storage area at ceiling level along east wall.

Interior Description: Room 6

Function: bedroom.

Dimensions: 11'4" x 13'4"; 8'4" ceiling.

Wallcovering: 7 1/4"-1'1 1/2" horizontal plain boards presently covered with particle board wood-grained paneling.

Floorcovering: particle board over linoleum; linoleum over felt paper; felt paper over 2 1/2" tongue and groove boards.

Ceiling: 4' x 4' fiber board ceiling tile over plain boards.

Baseboard: none.

Heating: none.

Fireplace: none.

Plumbing: none.

Lighting and Electricity: central ceiling fixture; switch on north wall adjacent to door; duplex outlets on north, south and east walls.

Other: a 2'9 1/2" deep x 2'11 1/2" wide closet is located in the northwest corner of the room; the window in the east wall replaced an earlier double hung window
an (apparently) original door in the east wall has been closed.

Interior Description: Room 7

Function: ell-shaped hallway.

Dimensions: north/south: 2'11" x 8'5"; east/west: 2'4 3/4" x 6'11"; 8'5" ceiling.

Wallcovering: drywall.

Floorcovering: particle board.

Ceiling: drywall.

Baseboard: 3 1/2" ranch molding; varnished.

Heating: opening at the north end of the east wall for a heat register.

Fireplace: none.

Plumbing: none.

Lighting and Electricity: off center ceiling fixture; switch on east wall adjacent to door from Room 6 to Room 7; duplex outlet on east wall between doorway from Room 6 to Room 7 and Room 5 to Room 7.

Site:

General Setting and Orientation : The structure is located 25' west of West Virginia County Route 19/24 between the Oil Creek Road (West Virginia County Route 25) and County Route 23/5 (the old Weston and Gauley Bridge Turnpike).

Historic Landscape Design: The building had been vacant for some time when the survey was conducted, and the yard was overgrown with grass and weeds; plantings include maple (*Acer* sp.) trees at the northeast and southeast corners of the lot entwined with poison ivy (*Rhus* sp.) vines. These trees appear to mark the lot lines. An apple (*Pyrus* sp.) tree appears to delineate the southwest corner of the lot, while a small locust (*Rubinia* sp.) tree grows near the northwest corner; a large maple (*Acer* sp.) tree is located directly west of the building; a 4' wide concrete sidewalk immediately adjacent to West Virginia County Route 19/24 extends across the property frontage; at right angles to that walkway, another 3' wide concrete sidewalk leads to the steps of the front porch of the structure. Near the porch on the east elevation and at a right angle to the 3' wide sidewalk, another concrete sidewalk leads north toward a gravel driveway which extends from the road to near the porch on the north side of the structure. A shed previously stood northwest of the north porch. Presently, two pieces of picket fence block the driveway entrance .

For project information and bibliography, see ROANOKE HABS No. WV-209.

For other structures in the Roanoke area, see HABS No.s WV-209-A -S.

The report from which this HABS documentation was prepared, along with field notes and over 90 hours of interview tapes, will be archived at the University of West Virginia, Morgantown, West Virginia.

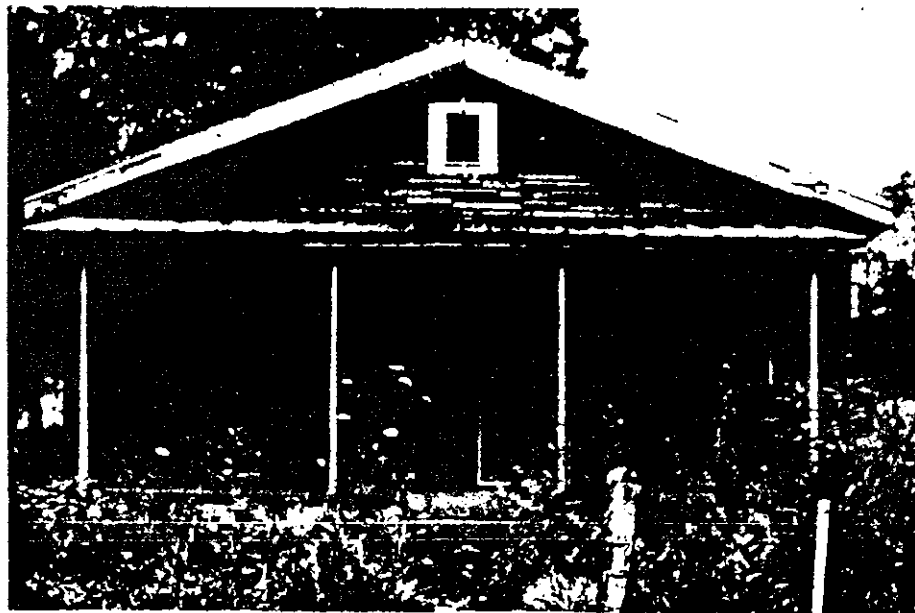


Figure 297. Perspective control photograph of the east elevation of the shoe shop/telephone exchange in 1981.



Figure 298. Perspective control photograph of the east and south elevations of the shoe shop/telephone exchange in 1981.



Perspective control photograph of the south elevation of the
shoe shop/telephone exchange in 1981.



Perspective control photograph of the south and west elevations of the
shoe shop/telephone exchange in 1981.



Perspective control photograph of the west elevation of the shoe shop/telephone exchange in 1981.



Perspective control photograph of the west and north elevations of the shoe shop/telephone exchange in 1981.



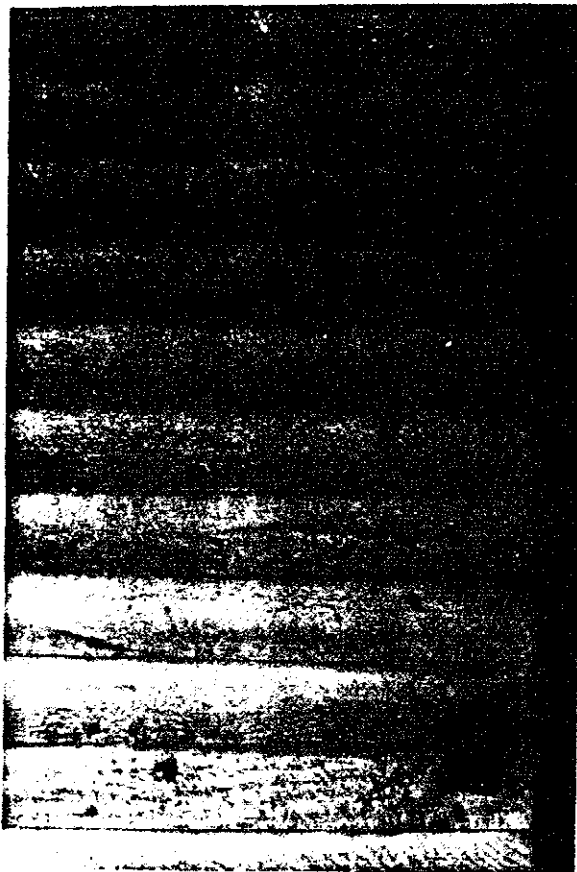
Perspective control photograph of the north elevation of the
shoe shop/telephone exchange in 1981.



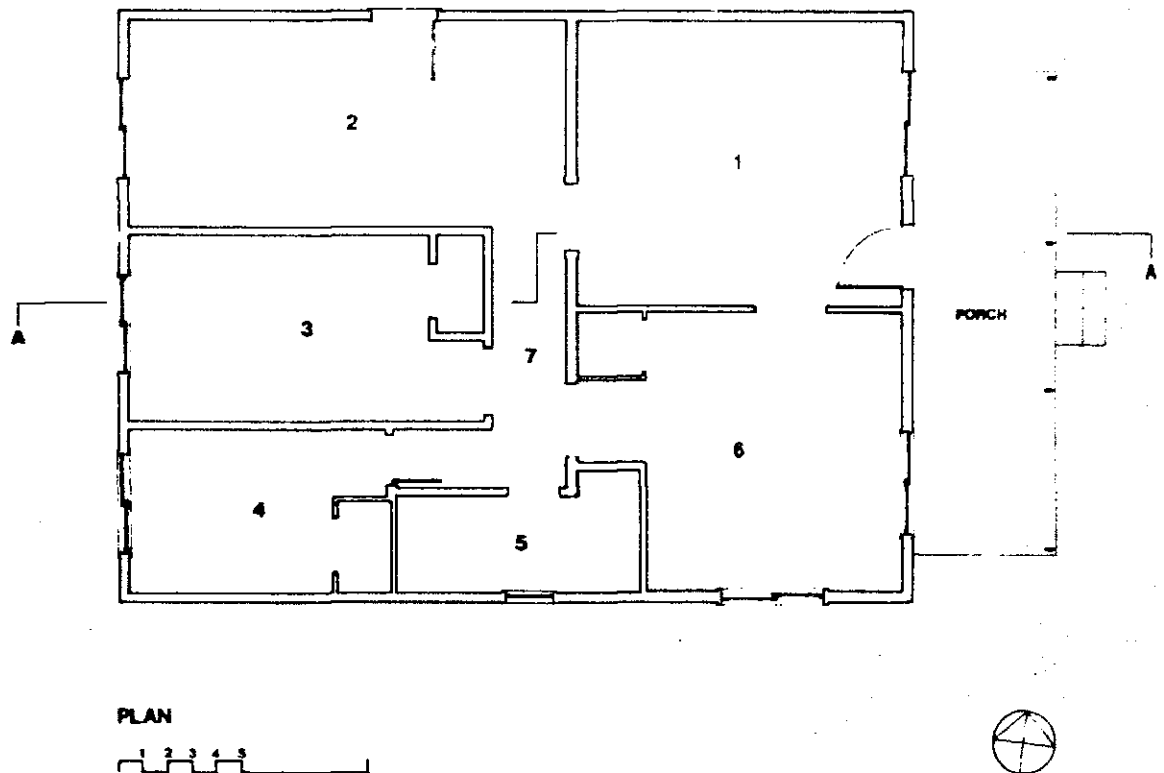
Perspective control photograph of the north and east elevations of the
shoe shop/telephone exchange in 1981. Note the picket fence.



Room 1 to Room 2 door
opening of the shoe
shop/telephone exchange in 1981.
Note the use of clapboard siding on the
Room 2 side. This indicates that the
structure originally consisted only of
Rooms 1 and 6.
Horizontal board wall in Room 1 can
be seen at right.

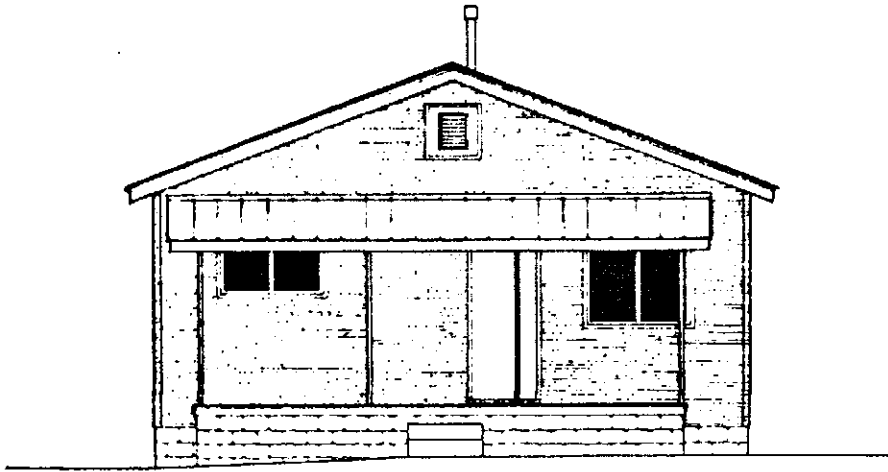


Close-up of exterior clap-
board siding beneath gray-green insul-
brick of the shoe shop/
telephone exchange in 1981.

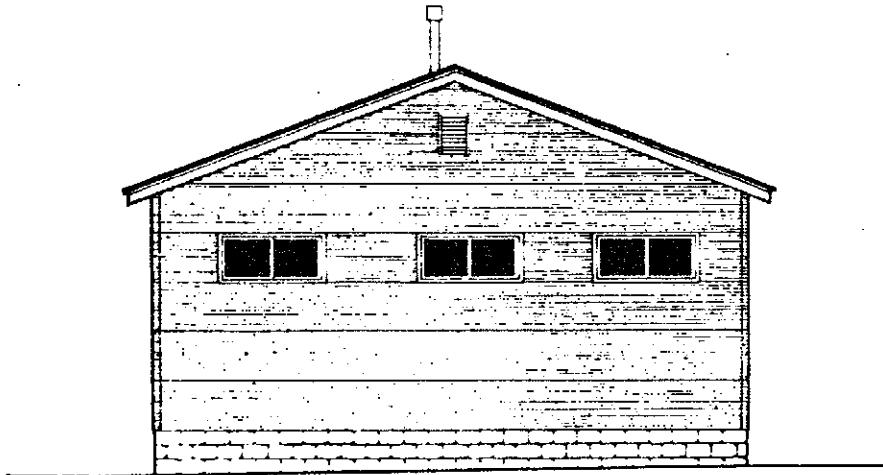


Floor plan of the

shoe shop/telephone exchange.



EAST ELEVATION

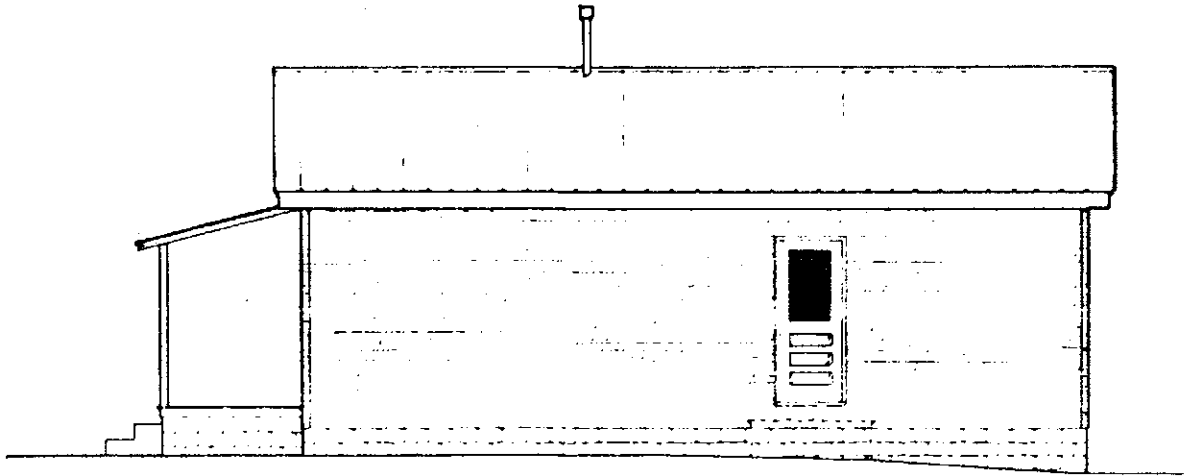


WEST ELEVATION

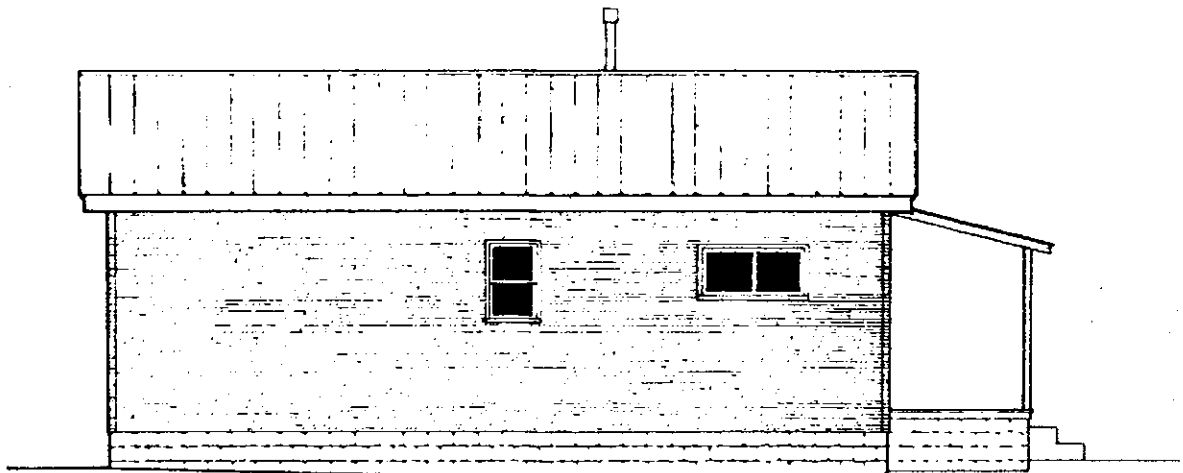


East and west elevations of the

shoe shop/telephone exchange.



NORTH ELEVATION

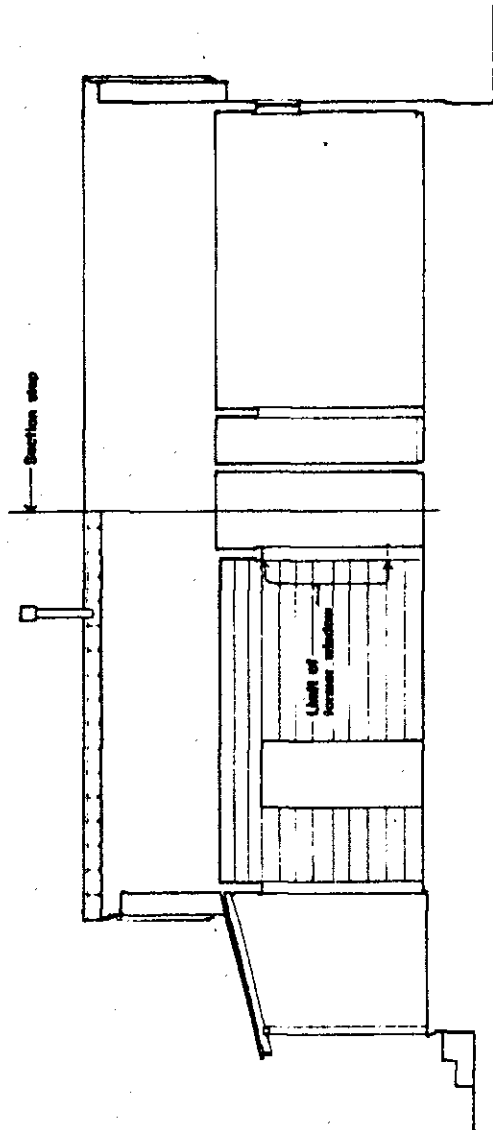


SOUTH ELEVATION



North and south elevations of

shoe shop/telephone exchange.



SECTION A-A



Longitudinal section (A-A) through the

shoe shop/telephone exchange.